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UKRAINE

Ukraine Gets New Securities Law

Recent adoption of a new law “On Securities and the Stock Market” represents an important step forward for Ukraine’s financial sector, explained Ukrainian Securities and Stock Market State Commission (SSMSC) Commissioner Serhiy Biryuk and Chief of Staff Mihail Nepran during a press conference in Kyiv on April 4.

On February 23, 2006, Ukraine’s Parliament passed the legislation, which was signed into law by President Victor Yushchenko on March 26. The new law, which was developed and passed with extensive support from the USAID/Capital Markets Project, is expected to improve professionalism among market participants and support a more open, transparent and effective securities market.

The law offers a much more clearly defined classification of securities, defines major groups of securities, such as equity, debt, mortgage, privatization, derivative, and title of goods. As Commissioner Biryuk stated, “The law defines a procedure for registering issued securities for both public and private placement; gives requirements to prospectus of securities emission; regulates the registration procedure of securities; determines requirements to public and closed placement of securities; and provides reporting requirements on results of securities placement.”

Newly Elected Mayors Get Certification in Practical Management

Twenty three newly-elected mayors from towns and cities in 11 oblasts gathered in Kyiv on April

8-9 for management courses to provide practical tools for efficient city management.

USAID’s Community Partnerships Project organized the certified course, “Practical Management for Newly Elected Mayors,” which is the first of several that its Regional Training Centers network has planned for Ukraine.

The course aims to promote knowledge about efficient management practices, to encourage professionalism in local government management, and to develop practical managerial skills. The course consists of six topics: self-awareness, ethics, time management, decision making and problem solving, effective communication, and team work.



Oleksandr Mazurchak speaks before newly-elected mayors

Oleksandr Mazurchak, who was just re-elected mayor of Kamiantes-Podilsky, stressed that, “meeting public needs is a necessary condition for efficient municipal leadership.”

Five Regional Training Centers have been established in Lviv, Donetsk, Cherkasy, Kherson and Kharkiv to provide broad-based training for local governments, NGOs and businesses associations. The Regional Training Centers’ network operates under the Community Partnerships for Local Government Training and Education Project (CPP). The CPP project links 14 U.S. communities with 14 Ukrainian ones to improve local governance.

Wholesale Price Monitoring on Ukrainian Markets

After the regular winter recess, monitoring of wholesale prices for fruits and vegetable prices recently resumed in the village Velyky Kopani in Kherson oblast. Although small in size, Velyky Kopani holds significant influence in the southern region of Ukraine. Despite the fact that relatively moderate volumes of fruits and vegetables pass through its market, Velyky Kopani market prices for fruits and vegetables are used as indicators for oblast prices as a whole.



A fruit market in Ukraine

Velyky Kopani carries significance beyond its size because since April 2005 the magazine "Agrooglyad: Vegetables and Fruits" in conjunction with USAID's Agricultural Marketing Project (AMP) has used the village market as a benchmark for its regional price listings for Ukraine as part of a retail and wholesale price monitoring system carried out among Ukraine's agricultural producers. AMP specialists monitor retail prices in village and city markets in six target oblasts, while also incorporating additional price information from all of Ukraine's oblasts. Concurrently, wholesale prices on major fruits, vegetables, and mushrooms are monitored in Kyiv, Lviv and, of course, the village of Velyky Kopani. The results of the daily price monitoring are published in Agrooglyad: Vegetables and Fruits on a weekly basis, and are posted daily on the AMP web-site.

The AMP is a four-year program designed to stimulate increased rural incomes and employment by enabling small and medium family farmers to identify and meet market needs profitably through enhancing quality and production efficiency, pursuing joint marketing

efforts, and adding increased value to their products.

AMP Holds Press Conference on Crimean Fruits and Vegetables

The Crimea office of USAID's Agricultural Marketing Project (AMP) conducted a press conference on March 28 regarding the current situation of the fruit and vegetable industry in Crimea and production forecasts for the forthcoming marketing season. The meeting with journalists was held at the CURE Press Club in Simferopol.

According to Vladimir Yarmilka, an AMP agronomist in the Crimea office, January frosts of -29°C , temperatures that had not been felt in the region in the last 50 years, had severely damaged the fruit crop. As a result, this year's harvest of stone fruits (peaches, apricots, plums and sweet cherries) could see declines of at least 15% for some fruits and up to 95% for others when compared to last year's harvest. About 30%-50% of apple blossoms show signs of damage as well, which could cause even bigger harvest losses. Crimean vineyards, especially table grapes, also suffered as a result of the harsh winter.

Yarmilka noted that the AMP had organized several trainings for Crimean fruit producers focused on special pruning methods which might facilitate recovery of the trees injured by frosts.

Projects Join Forces to Stimulate Rural Financing

Over 20 leasing professionals attended a seminar on March 2-3, held at the Ukrainian Grain Association, to learn about sales and risk management techniques particular to agricultural leasing.

Two USAID projects – Pragma Corporation's Access to Credit Initiative (ATCI) and CNFA's Farmer-to-Farmer (FtF) Program – co-sponsored the two-day seminar, "Sales Techniques and Risk Assessment for Ukrainian Leasing Companies," which was organized to enhance the capacity of Ukrainian lessors to provide lease financing to

agribusiness clients, especially small and medium-sized enterprises.



CNFA-FtF volunteer Tom Meade addresses training seminar

ATCI is a five-year project to develop Ukraine's financial market infrastructure and increase capacity among its participants, in which the FtF program annually brings approximately 85 U.S. agribusiness experts to Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus.

Upcoming Events

April 20, Ukraine Citizen Action Network Project, Opening of the Southern Regional Advocacy Center, Kherson.

April 21, U-Media Project, Round table "Results of Elections 2006," Mykolayiv.

April 27, Ukraine Citizen Action Network Project, Opening of the Eastern Regional Advocacy Center, Luhansk.

USAID Regional Mission for Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus

19 Nizhniy Val Street, 04071 Kyiv, Ukraine
Tel: (380 44) 537-4600;
Fax: (380 44) 537-4684
www.usaid.kiev.ua

M O L D O V A

Eurasia Foundation and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration: Partners in Moldova's European Integration

The Eurasia Foundation (EF) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of the Republic of Moldova signed a two-year agreement on April 6 in which the partners agreed to work together to increase citizen participation in Moldova-EU relations and implementation of the EU-Moldova Action Plan. The cooperative agreement, which is in part funded by USAID, reflects both partners' commitment to informing and involving the public in Moldova's European integration plans.

Vice Minister Valeriu Ostalep said "We are relying on the Eurasia Foundation's expertise to design new ways for the Ministry to respond to citizens' concerns as we embark on our pro-European course." Eric Boyle, EF Regional Director for Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova added, "This is the first example of such high-level cooperation between the Eurasia Foundation and a Ministry in Moldova. Our Moldova program is designing innovative ways for citizens to participate in Moldova's European integration process."

EF and the Ministry have a number of cooperative activities planned, including a workshop on citizen participation in government for civil society and government actors; and a working group of civil society organizations to support the Ministry's work implementing the EU-Moldova Action Plan.

Upcoming Events

April 18, Rule of Law Program, Anti-corruption training at Cahul Legal Clinic, Cahul, Moldova.

April 28, BIZPRO, One Stop Shop Opening, Drochia, Moldova.

USAID Representative Office in Moldova

57/1 Banulescu-Bodoni Street
ASITO Building, 5th Floor
Chisinau, Moldova 2005
Tel: (037322) 20-18-00
Fax: (037322) 23-72-77
www.usaid.md